

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

1 Claim 1 (currently amended): A ~~control method of providing speed information relative to a legal speed limit, the~~  
2 ~~method comprising the steps of:~~

3 ~~determining a first speed limit, corresponding to an area to be entered, said legal speed limit as a function of both position information and a direction of travel stored information indicating the legal speed limit at each of a plurality of different geographic locations;~~

4 ~~determining a second speed limit, corresponding to a current position as a function of said position information; and~~

5 ~~performing, when said first determined speed limit is lower than said second determined speed limit, a control operation as a function of said first determined speed limit.~~

6 ~~comparing a current speed to said legal speed limit; and~~

7 ~~alerting the user if the current speed differs from the legal speed limit by a set amount.~~

1 Claim 2 (currently amended): The method of claim 1, further  
2 comprising the step of:

3 ~~obtaining said current position information from a global positioning device.~~

1 Claim 3 (currently amended): The method of claim 2, wherein  
2 ~~said control operation is a vehicle speed control operation and where the vehicle is an automobile. the set amount is a positive amount resulting in notification when said legal speed limit is exceeded by said positive amount.~~

1 Claim 4 (currently amended): The method of claim 2, further comprising: ~~where the set amount is a negative~~

3 amount resulting in notification when the current speed  
4 drops below said speed limit by the set amount.

5 comparing a current speed to said second speed  
6 limit; and

7 alerting a user if a current speed differs from  
8 the second speed limit by a set amount set by the user.

1 Claim 5 (currently amended): The method of claim 2 4,  
2 further comprising the step of:

3 calculating the current speed from changes in  
4 position information obtained from the global positioning  
5 device over a period of time.

1 Claim 6 (currently amended): The method of claim 2 1,  
2 further comprising:

3 storing speed limit information in a data storage  
4 device; and

5 periodically updating the stored speed limit  
6 information indicating the legal speed limit by downloading  
7 update information using a wireless communications device  
8 over the Internet.

1 Claim 7 (currently amended): The method of claim 4,  
2 further comprising the step of:

3 storing said set amount as a speed limit offset  
4 value.

1 Claim 8 (currently amended): The method of claim 1, wherein  
2 the method further involves controlling said control  
3 operation includes adjusting the speed of a said vehicle,  
4 the method further comprising:

5 comparing the current speed to a speed set  
6 relative to said legal speed limit; and

7 adjusting the speed of the vehicle to reduce any  
8 difference between said speed set relative to said speed  
9 limit and said legal speed limit.

1 Claim 9 (currently amended): The method of claim 1, wherein  
2 the method is further directed to generating speed trap  
3 alert notifications, the method further comprising:  
4         comparing ~~current~~ position information to  
5 information on the location of known speed traps; and  
6         generating an alert signal when said comparing  
7 operation indicates that the current position is ~~approaching~~  
8 near the location of a known speed trap.

1 Claim 10 (currently amended): A method of controlling a  
2 speed of a vehicle, the method comprising:  
3         obtaining vehicle position information from a  
4 global positioning system device;  
5         determining, as a function of said obtained  
6 position information, a first and a second accessing stored  
7 legal speed limit, the first speed limit corresponding to an  
8 area to be entered, the second speed limit corresponding to  
9 the current position of the vehicle information as a  
10 function of position information to determine the applicable  
11 legal speed limit; and  
12         modifying the speed of the vehicle as a function  
13 of at least one of the applicable legal determined first and  
14 second speed limit limits.

1 Claim 11 (currently amended): The method of claim 10,  
2 further comprising wherein said modifying includes reducing  
3 the speed of the vehicle when said first speed limit is  
4 lower than said second speed limit.+  
5         receiving said position information from a global  
6 positioning system device.

1 Claim 12 (currently amended): The method of claim ~~11~~ 10,  
2 further comprising:  
3         determining a speed set relative to the applicable  
4 legal speed limit as a function of the applicable legal  
5 speed limit and a stored speed offset value; and

6        ~~wherein the step of modifying the speed of the~~  
7        ~~vehicle includes:~~  
8        ~~comparing the speed set relative to the applicable~~  
9        ~~speed limit to a current speed of the vehicle; and~~  
10        controlling the speed of the vehicle to reduce any  
11        difference between the a speed set by a user of said vehicle  
12        relative to the applicable second speed limit and the a  
13        current speed of the vehicle.

1        Claim 13 (original): The method of claim 12, further  
2        comprising the step of:

3                determining the current speed of the vehicle from  
4        changes in position information over time.

1        Claim 14 (currently amended): The method of claim 11,  
2        further comprising the step of:

3                storing speed limit information; and  
4                updating the stored legal speed limit information  
5        using speed limit information received over the Internet.

1        Claim 15 (currently amended): The method of claim 11 10  
2        further comprising:  
3                accessing stored information indicating a speed at  
4        which a user has requested to receive a speed alert; and  
5                comparing the speed of the vehicle to a speed at  
6        which the user has requested a speed alert; and  
7                providing a speed alert to the user when the speed  
8        of the vehicle matches a speed at which the user has  
9        requested to receive a speed alert.

Claims 16-19 (canceled)

1        Claim 20 (currently amended): A vehicle speed control  
2        system, comprising:  
3                ~~a database of legal speed limit information;~~  
4                a global positioning device for indicating the  
5        position of the vehicle;

6 means for ~~accessing~~ determining the database of  
7 ~~speed limit information as a function of position~~  
8 ~~information provided by the global positioning device to~~  
9 ~~determine the legal speed limit that will be applicable to~~  
10 ~~the vehicle upon entry into an area in the direction of~~  
11 ~~vehicle travel based on its the vehicle's current location~~  
12 ~~as indicated by the global positioning device and the~~  
13 ~~direction of vehicle travel; and~~

14 cruise control circuitry for controlling the speed  
15 of the vehicle as a function of the determined legal speed  
16 limit in the area to be entered when said determined speed  
17 limit is lower than a speed limit corresponding to the  
18 current position of the vehicle.

Claims 21-23 (canceled)

1 Claim 24 (new): The method of claim 10, wherein said  
2 vehicle is an automobile.

1 Claim 25 (new): The vehicle control system of claim 20,  
2 wherein said vehicle is an automobile.

1 Claim 26 (new): The vehicle speed control system of claim  
2 25, wherein said control system is integrated directly into  
3 the automobile.